(c) whether USA has offered technical know-how to build LPG storage facility in India and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Oil Industry has proposed setting up of 305 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) additional tankage for LPG, to have an overall demand cover of 45 days by the year 2006-07 at the estimated cost of Rs. 5 crore per TMT. Oil industry has suggested to meet the requirement of fund through OIDB.

(c) No, Sir.

Vigilance Mechanism

735. SHRI K. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vigilance Mechanisms in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and in the PSUs under the Ministry have been effective in curbing the menace of corruption;

(b) the number of complaints handled by the Vigilance Department in the Ministry and in PSUs about their employees during the last two years and the result thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated to strengthen the Vigilance Mechanism in the Ministry and in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Vigilance Administration in the Ministry and PSUs enquires and recommends cases for institution of departmental proceedings whenever, *prima facie*, cases are established. Several other programmes and activities are undertaken to sensitize the employees regarding need for providing transparency in administration.

The number of complaints handled by the Vigilance Deptt. in the Ministry and in Oil PSUs during the last two years *i.e.* from 1-1-2002 to 30-11-2003 is 842. The Vigilance Administration recommended departmental proceedings against 248 employees and administrative action against 95 employees during the above period.

The study of systems and procedures for streamlining the Vigilance Mechanism is undertaken from time to time. Preparation of the Agreed

list of employees in coordination with CBI, periodic review of the staff posted in sensitive areas, identification of corruption prone areas are some of the steps taken to strengthen the Vigilance mechanism.

Purchase of LNG from Iran

736. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under a pact Government are bound to pick up one producing and one semi-discovered oil field in Iran in return for buying five million tonnes of LNG from Iran for 25 years;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the pact; and

(c) whether Iran has sent a list of five producing and semi-discovered blocks under the pact offering to share equity with an Indian Government firm; if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) India and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27-1-03 for furthering mutual cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. In terms of this MOU, a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted. During the first meeting of this JWG, held in New Delhi/Tehran in May 2003, both sides agreed to develop a package of cooperation in the oil and gas sector which *inter alia* included import of 5 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonne Per Annum) of LNG from Iran for 25 years, to be taken in two phases each of 2.5 MMTPA, and negotiating award of a significant sized discovered Iranian oilfield and a semi-discovered Iranian oilfield to an Indian public sector undertaking like ONGC Videsh Limited subject to technical and commercial competitiveness.

In terms of aforsaid JWG meeting, the Iranian side has forwarded a list of fields and the same are being evaluated.

Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas

737. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of petroleum and natural gas last year;

(b) how much it was increased or decreased; and